

We claim:

1. An isolated polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a gNK1r polypeptide
- 5 2. An isolated polynucleotide molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide having at least 98% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 10 3. The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 1, which sequence comprises the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 2, which sequence comprises the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 15 5. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide molecule according to any one of claims 1-4.
- 20 6. A host cell transformed or transfected with the expression vector according to claim 5.
7. The host cell according to claim 6, which is a mammalian cell.
8. A method for producing a polypeptide, which method comprises culturing a host
25 cell comprising a polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, under conditions suitable for the expression of said polypeptide.
9. An isolated or purified polypeptide comprising the gNK1r amino acid sequence set
30 out in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 having at least 98% identity thereto, or an N-terminal or C-terminal fragment thereof of at least 350 amino acids in length.
10. An isolated gNK1r polypeptide selected from: SEQ ID NO: 2 or a fragment thereof
35 selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2 positions: 1-377, 1-387, 1-400, 1-406, 10-407, 15-407, 20-407, 25-407, 35-407, 40-390, 15-385, 20-380, 25-370, 30-370

and 25-400.

11. The variant polypeptide according to claim 9, which variant possesses, relative to the
5 position in SEQ ID NO:2, a serine at position 80, a valine at position 116 and an isoleucine at position 290.

12. A method for identifying a chemical compound capable of modulating the activity of
10 gNK1r which method comprises:

- (i) contacting a chemical compound with a gNK1r polypeptide according to claim 9; and
- (ii) measuring an effect of the chemical compound on the activity of the gNK1r polypeptide.

15 13. A method for identifying a therapeutic agent capable of modulating the activity of gNK1r, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting a candidate compound modulator with a gNK1r polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 having at least 98% sequence identity thereto, or an N-terminal or C-terminal fragment thereof of at least 377
20 amino acids in length; and
- (ii) measuring an effect of the candidate compound modulator on the activity of the gNK1r polypeptide.

25 14. A method for identifying a therapeutic agent capable of modulating the activity of gNK1r, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting a candidate compound modulator with a host cell which expresses a gNK1r polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant of SEQ ID NO: 2 having at least 98% identity thereto, or a biologically active fragment thereof; and
30 (ii) measuring an effect of the candidate compound modulator on the activity of gNK1r.

15. A method of making a pharmaceutical composition which comprises:

- (i) identifying a chemical compound capable of modulating the activity of gNK1r; and
- 35 (ii) mixing the compound thus identified with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

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16. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a gNK1r modulator, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

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